(c) if so, how many companies have been-found to be not obeying Government announcement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a)to'(c) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. As a rsult of this voluntary cap on trade margins the prices of several medicines manufactured by 11 companies, have been reduced. A compilation of a list of 886 such medicines, whose prices have been voluntarily reduced by these companies, has been brought out. The list of 886 medicines is available on this Department's Website *www.chemicals.gov.in.* It has also been placed in the library of the Parliament. The reduction in prices of these medicines is voluntary and not due to any direction/order from the Government which needs to be obeyed by the companies. Cross checking of authenticity of these reductions is done through reports/price lists/feedback submitted by the Pharma companies.

Generic drugs are generally being sold through a very small number of cfjemists and mostly through dispensing Doctors and Nursing Homes. Most of the chemists do not keep a stock of these drugs. Some of the stockists in the cities have received fresh stock after 2.10.2006 with the revised prices but these are yet to be launched in the market due to the old stock iying with them.

New bill on medicine prices

†2609. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring a new Bill to regulate prices, production, distribution and supply of medicines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) It has been proposed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that a separate Drugs (Price Regulation and Control) Act may be introduced to strengthen the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for effective monitoring and enforcement of drug prices.

An initial draft on this Bill has been prepared. Comments of various stakeholders have been called for on this Bill. No time frame has been fixed for processing of this Bill.

NIPER Institute in Gujarat

2610. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is a front runner in the production of drugs and pharmaceutical products with 40 percent of total production in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Gujarat Government felt any necessity of having an institute like NIPER or its branch in their State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government have taken a decision to set up such an institute in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the final outcome of the decision thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE). (a)As per the Report of the Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12), the estimated production during 2004-05 was Rs. 9034.00 crores for Bulk Drugs and Rs. 31946.00 crores for formulations. Some of the major Drug manufacturing units are set up in Gujarat. Separate data for each state is not maintained.

(b) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) located at Mohali, Punjab is the first National level institute of its kind in India in the field of pharmaceutical sciences set up by an act of Parliament on 26.6.1998. Realising the need for setting up of more NIPER like institutes in India a Committee consisting of experts from NIPER was constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The Committee has submitted its report in January 2006 and it has recommended for the